FOUNDATION

because steadfast families are built on the rock

"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock."

-Matthew 7:24-25

Family Bible reading and worship plan

Month 1

I cannot count how many times have I gotten in a family Bible time slump because I need to "get everything ready" but kept pushing it off. My good intentions were repeatedly thrown off by the simple speed bump of creating a plan. Odds are, you've found yourself in a similar situation, so that's why I am sharing these Bible time plans with you. All the planning is already done, so all you have to do is get started!

If you follow along with us doing these monthly plans, we will go through the major stories of the Bible together. This plan is perfect for families with younger kids, or those who do not have much experience with the Bible. Parents and older children may want additional personal Bible study time to dig deeper into the text.

This plan moves SLOW and is kept SIMPLE. The goal is building a habit of getting in the word together, letting God's word seep into our lives, not trying to race through a lengthly plan or to-do list. This helps avoid overwhelm and makes it easy to jump back in the saddle when life inevitably gets you off track. It's also only planned for five days of the week. This way if you miss a day, you can easily catch up. If you need something for an additional day, try reading a Psalm, Proverb, or story from the life of Jesus.

When having your Bbile time together as a family, resist the temptation to over-explain. Answer questions, yes! Give some info, sure! But don't turn it into a long (and boring!) lecture. Let your children dwell on the Word and use their own minds to dig in.

For adults and older children who want to dig deeper into the text, I highly recommend the free resource <u>biblehub.com</u> (find an in-depth tutorial <u>HERE</u>).

Here are how the plans are set up...

Each month has the following components:

- 1. *A children's Bible song.* While even the toddler enjoys singing along to hymns, classic children's Bible songs are also too fun to pass up.
- 2. A hymn. They've been around forever for a reason. They are easy to sing along with and pack a potent punch of truth. Singing hymns is one the easiest ways I've found to introduce some difficult theological topics.

Each week has the following components:

- 1. Bible story to be read from a picture Bible for the younger members of the family. Read the same story every day that week I promise they won't get sick of it! If you'd like, you can also use <u>Play Through the Bible</u>. The stories covered in this plan can be found in most children's Bibles, but <u>THIS ONE</u> is our favorite.
- 2. Bible passage to be read. A suggested daily breakdown is given, but feel free to adjust to your family. This way, if a day is skipped, you can easily reconfigure!

Your daily routine might look something like this:

- 1. Pray and/or say the Lord's Prayer
- 2. Read the story from the picture Bible (dismissing wiggly littlest ones if need be at this point)
- 3. Briefly review the previous reading
- 4. Read the passage
- 5. Ask your child what they remember from the passage or what stood out to them
- 6. Sing (by now the little ones will definitely be getting wiggly, or will have wandered off, so they can get up and dance!)

You can read more about crafting your own Bible time with kids <u>HERE</u>.

If you have any questions, prayer requests, or I can be of any assistance to you, please don't hesitate to email me - <u>liz@steadfastfamily.com</u>

If you are a mom of littles I also want to invite you to join our encouraging facebook community HERE.

Now let's get started!

MONTH ONE

Hymn - <u>Great is Thy Faithfulness</u> **Bible Song** - He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

Week One

CREATION

Day One - Genesis 1:1-13 Day Two - Genesis 1:14-23 Day Three - Genesis 1:25-2:3 Day Four - Genesis 2:4-17 Day Five - Genesis 2:18-25

Week Two

THE FALL

(Note: you can just read the story of the Fall in the children's Bible, but add Cain and Able as an example of the effects of the fall in your regular reading)

Day One - Genesis 3:1-10 Day Two - Genesis 3:11-15 Day Three - Genesis 3:16-24 Day Four - Genesis 4:1-7 Day Five - Genesis 4:7-16

Week Three

NOAH

Day One - Genesis 6:5-22 Day Two - Genesis 7:1-24 Day Three - Genesis 8:1-14 Day Four - Genesis 8:15-9:1 Day Five - Genesis 9:2-17

Week Four

ABRAHAM

Day One - Genesis 12:1-20 Day Two - Genesis 15:1-21 Day Three - Genesis 17:1-8, 15-21 Day Four - Genesis 18:1-15 Day Five - Genesis 21:1-7

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS by Thomas O. Chisholm

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with Thee; Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not; as Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed Thy hand hath provided:
great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest; sun, moon, and stars in their courses above join with all nature in manifold witness, to Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. [Refrain]

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide; strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow: blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! [Refrain]

A great site for more information on hymns is hymnary.org

HE'S GOT THE WHOLE WORLD IN HIS HANDS

He's got the whole world In His hands He's got the whole world In His hands He's got the whole world In His hands He's got the whole world in His hands

He's got the little bitty babies In His hands He's got the little bitty babies In His hands He's got the little bitty babies In His hands He's got the whole world in His hands

He's got the mommies and the daddies In his hands He's got the mommies and the daddies In his hands He's got the mommies and the daddies In his hands He's got the whole world in His hands

He's got the brothers and the sisters In His hands He's got the brothers and the sisters In His hands He's got the brothers and the sisters In His hands He's got the whole world in His hands

He's got [insert child's name] In His hands He's got [insert child's name] He's got [insert child's name] He's got the whole world in His hands.